



# Bhutan-born Community Information Summary

## Historical Background

While Australia has had a long standing bilateral aid program with Bhutan, migration from Bhutan has been negligible until recently. An aid program established in 1962 under the Colombo Plan saw a number of Bhutanese officials come to Australia to receive education or training.

The 2001 Census recorded only 63 Australians who were born in Bhutan.

Ethnic unrest in Bhutan over citizenship laws and the ensuing violence in the 1990s led more than 100,000 Nepali speaking Bhutanese to seek refuge in camps in south-eastern Nepal.

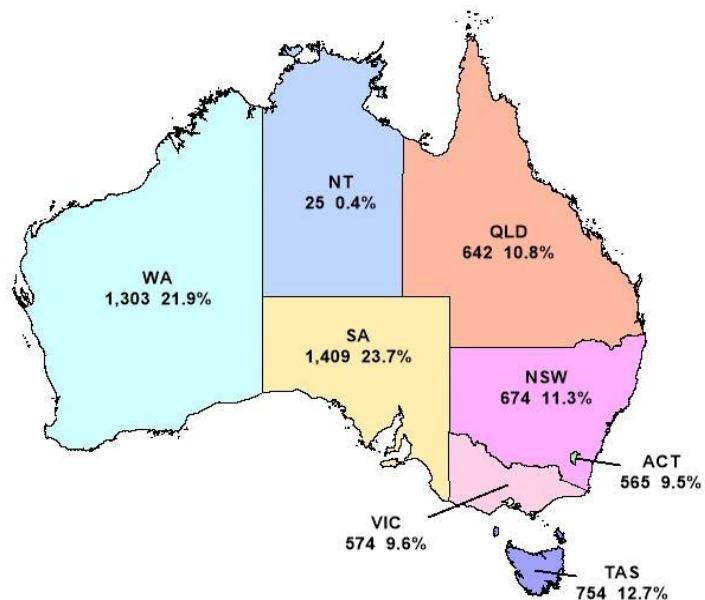
From 2008 to 2013, Australia agreed to resettle 5000 Bhutanese refugees from Nepal under its Humanitarian Program as part of a coordinated international strategy to resolve the long-standing situation. In Australia, of people who were born in Bhutan, 71.6 per cent arrived in Australia from 2011 – 2016.

## 2016 Census

### *Geographic Distribution*

The latest Census in 2016 recorded 5,950 Bhutan-born people in Australia, an increase of 142.4 per cent from the 2011 Census.

The 2016 distribution by State and Territory showed South Australia had the largest number with 1,409 followed by Western Australia (1,303), Tasmania (754) and New South Wales (674).

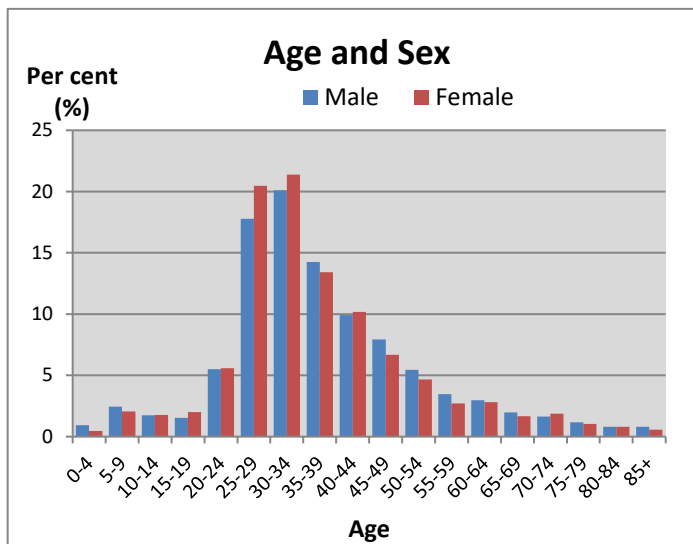


## Age and Sex

The median age of the Bhutan-born in 2016 was 34 years compared with 44 years for all overseas-born and 38 years for the total Australian population.

The age distribution showed 4.5 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 7.3 per cent were 15-24 years, 63.8 per cent were 25-44 years, 18.3 per cent were 45-64 years and 6.0 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the Bhutan-born in Australia, there were 2,974 males (50.0 per cent) and 2,979 females (50.1 per cent). The sex ratio was 100 males per 100 females.

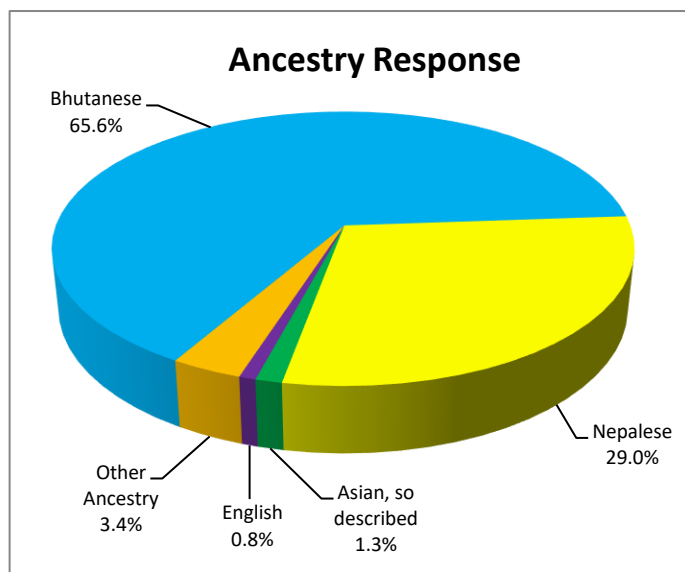


## Ancestry

In the 2016 Census, the top ancestry responses\* that Bhutan-born people reported were Bhutanese (4,529), Nepalese (2,004) and Asian, so described (87).

In the 2016 Census, Australians reported over 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses\* 6,386 responses were towards Bhutanese ancestry.

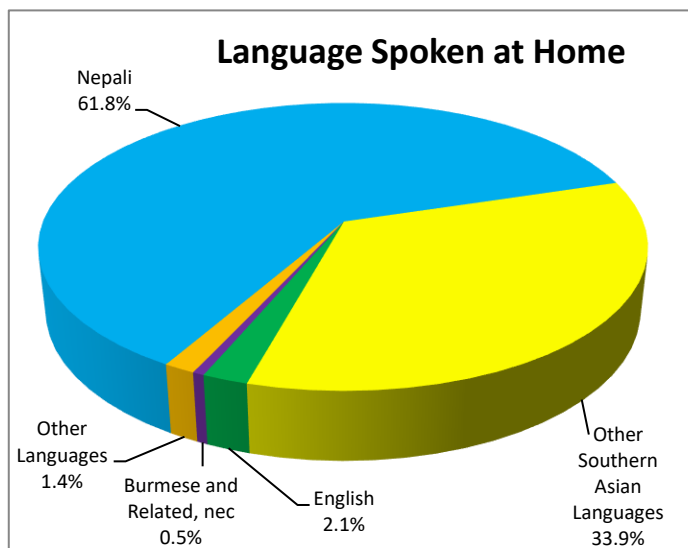
\* At the 2016 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question, therefore there can be more responses than total persons.



## Language

The main languages spoken at home by Bhutan-born people in Australia were Nepali (3,678), Other Southern Asian Languages (2,019) and English (123).

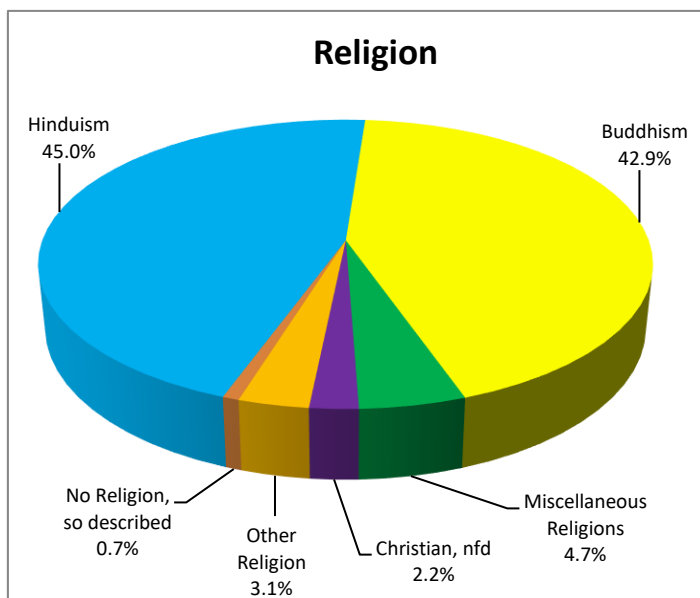
Of the 5,823 Bhutan-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 60.2 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 39.1 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



## Religion

At the 2016 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Bhutan-born were Hinduism (2,679), Buddhism (2,550) and Miscellaneous Religions (282).

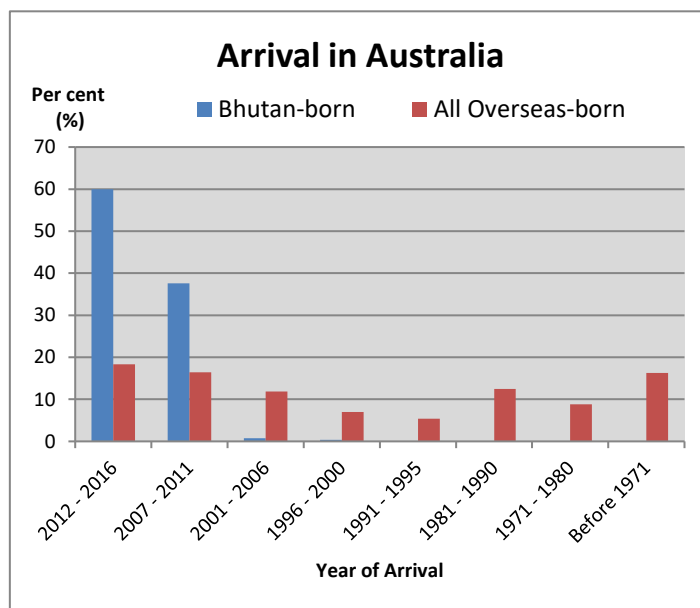
Of the Bhutan-born, 0.7 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was lower than that of the total Australian population (29.6 per cent), and 1.2 per cent did not state a religion.



## Arrival

Compared to 61.8 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 1.2 per cent of the Bhutan-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2007.

Among the total Bhutan-born in Australia at the 2016 Census, 37.6 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011 and 60.0 per cent arrived between 2012 and 2016.



## Median Income

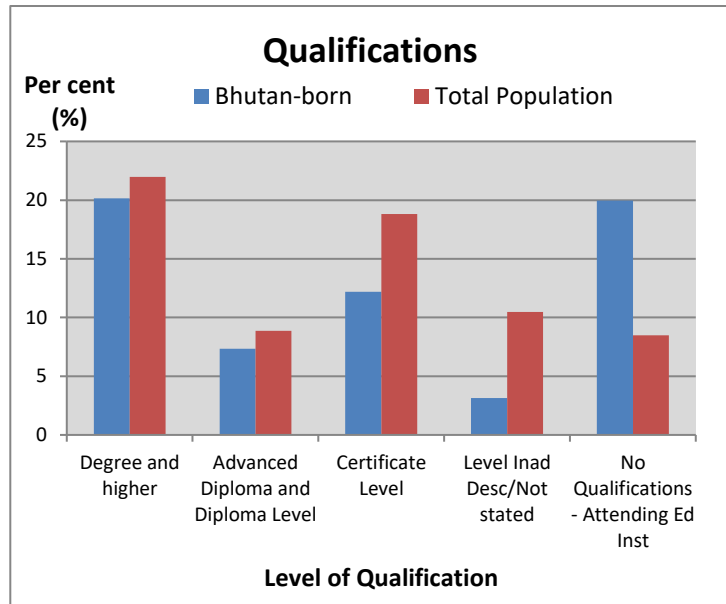
At the time of the 2016 Census, the median Individual Weekly Income for the Bhutan-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$391, compared with \$615 for all overseas-born and \$688 for all Australian-born.

The total Australian population aged 15 and over had a median Individual Weekly Income of \$662.

### Qualifications

At the 2016 Census, 42.9 per cent of the Bhutan-born aged 15 years and over had some form of higher non-school qualification compared to 60.1 per cent of the Australian population.

Of the Bhutan-born aged 15 years and over, 20.0 per cent had no qualifications and were still attending an educational institution. The corresponding rate for the total Australian population was 8.5 per cent.

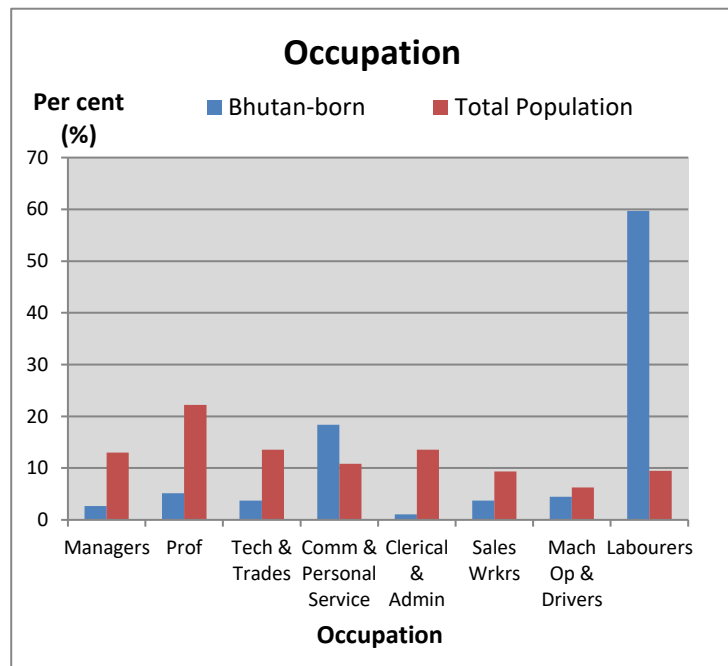


### Employment

Among Bhutan-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 56.0 per cent and the unemployment rate was 11.9 per cent.

The corresponding rates in the total Australian population were 64.6 per cent and 6.9 per cent respectively.

Of the 2,785 Bhutan-born who were employed, 11.6 per cent were employed in either a skilled managerial, professional or trade occupation. The corresponding rate in the total Australian population was 48.8 per cent.



**Produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the Department of Home Affairs**

All data used in this summary is sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing.